

Courier

April is Volunteer Month

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Volunteers are a vital part of many county programs

Most everyone agrees: volunteering is a great way to connect to the community and to connect to people. The volunteer jobs are various but the need for community-building is the

same and the opportunities for volunteering in Fairfax County are numerous. An important factor to realize is that volunteers are all sorts of people, including county employees who contribute much

time and energy for many important programs in our area.

April 17–23 is National Volunteer Week, recognizing those who dedicate time

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The Board of Supervisors proclaimed April 21 as Volunteer Recognition Day in Fairfax County. Pictured are some of the people involved in volunteering.

Tsunami disaster gets local help

Once again, Fairfax County's urban search and rescue team, Virginia Task Force One, was called upon to assist in an international disaster. The team's response to the Dec. 26, 2004, undersea earthquake and the resulting tsunami in the Indian Ocean region began on New Year's Eve. At the request of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), six members of the team left Dulles International Airport as part of a Disaster Assistance Response Team, or DART.

Joining forces in Indonesia with other disaster response specialists from the U.S. government, Fairfax County personnel provided much needed humanitarian assistance by performing needs assessments centered on health and safety, water/sanitation and infrastructure. Additionally, team personnel provided logistical support for air-based delivery of international relief commodities, as well as the coordination of relief efforts among the U.S. government, the United Nations and

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and energy to helping others. The Board of Supervisors proclaimed April 21 as Volunteer Recognition Day in Fairfax County, highlighted by the 13th Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards recognizing the countless hours of service by volunteers. It's also a good time to focus on our own commitment to improving our communities.

We always hear of nonprofit organizations like the Red Cross and the Salvation Army, both outstanding organizations. However, in our area and within county government, there are incredible opportunities where people can commit as much time and effort as they want. Three examples in county government and one independent organization are profiled here, illustrating the importance of volunteers.

Department of Family Services

The county's Department of Family Services

relies upon the help of volunteers to accomplish its mission of promoting and supporting the well-being of families and individuals in the community. In the department's Children, Youth and Family division, volunteers are essential in a wide variety of areas, such as working with children and parents in the popular BeFriend mentoring programs and the Nurturing Parenting Program®. "We could not do what we do without the dedicated support of indi-



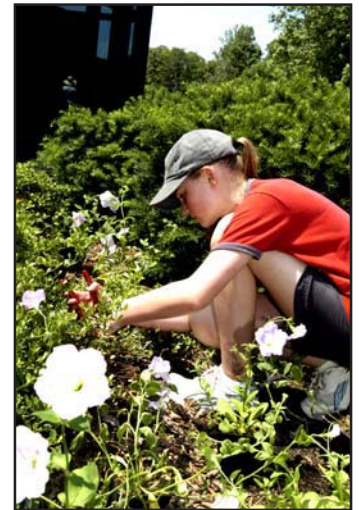
viduals and partners within the community," said **Laurie Eytel**, volunteer services manager with DFS Children, Youth and Family division.

Volunteer support is also essential for a variety of other DFS efforts, including programs such as Meals on Wheels that help homebound seniors and adults with disabilities continue to live in their own homes.

Park Authority

Consider the valuable work of volunteers in Fairfax County parks. There are a number of parks throughout the county that could not offer the level or diversity of services were it not for the support of volunteers.

Volunteers with the nature center and historic sites outnumber paid staff members.



"We wouldn't be able to fulfill our stewardship mission without volunteers," says **Erin Chernisky**, volunteer services coordinator for the Park Authority. She considers volunteer participation essential to the functioning of many programs in the county park system, one of the best in the nation. Volunteers contribute time and talent serving the public in jobs such as front-desk greeters while others dig into the dirt and landscape to maintain gardens.

Public Library

Surprisingly, you can garden at many local library branches, too, assisting with Master Gardener-led projects. Or you can lead a group improving their English, provide one-on-one Internet tutoring, organize shelves of books, or sort and price books for the popular Friends of the Library book sales. The library offers over 60 volunteer opportunities on their Web page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

Volunteer center meets county needs

Volunteer Fairfax plays an integral role in emergency response volunteerism for the county. As one of the founding agencies of Fairfax County Citizen Corps, *Volunteer Fairfax* provides critical support to the corps' main programs. In April 2003, *Volunteer Fairfax* launched the Fairfax County Citizen Corps Web site where county employees in nonessential positions can sign up online for volunteer opportunities in programs such as Voluntary Action Team, Neighborhood Watch, Community Emergency Response Training (CERT), volunteers in Police Service and the Medical Reserve Corps. County employees are encouraged to join the corps of more than 6,000 volunteers already signed up in the database.

Volunteer for the Citizens Corps at www.fairfaxcountycitizencorps.org or explore other volunteer opportunities at the *Volunteer Fairfax* Web site at www.volunteerfairfax.org. ■

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Volunteers, from page 2

"We have excellent people and a great system for volunteering through the county library system," says **Kate Wanderer**, library volunteer coordinator. She welcomes oppor-



tunities to share ideas with other county staff who supervise or coordinate volunteers.

Ranging from teens to seniors, there are more than 2,500 volunteers who

perform various duties in DFS, over 2,000 with Park Authority and, in the course of a year, well over 3,200 volunteers at the libraries. You can see how important volunteers are to many county programs!

Volunteer Fairfax

Finding somewhere to volunteer should not prove difficult. After all, the essence of volunteering comes with the initiative to make a change for the better and to understand that everyone has applicable skills. Some organizations would discontinue

business were it not for its volunteer group. For more than 30 years, the non-profit organization, *Volunteer Fairfax*, has been an important resource in Fairfax County for those wishing to volunteer and organizations – including county agencies – needing volunteer support. Fairfax County government was one of the beneficiaries when *Volunteer Fairfax* unpaid assistants contributed time and effort during Hurricane Isabel. (See box on page 2)

So why volunteer your time and skills? Some volunteer for fun, some for academic credit and some to keep busy, but most, do it because it just feels good. Whatever your reason, just do it! One only need look at the thankful smile of a family member receiving assistance or the gleeful giggle of a child to know that you made a difference in their lives. Look around you and you will find many opportunities to make your community a better place, and many of those opportunities are with Fairfax County government agencies. ■



Members of VATF1 were on site at the tsunami disaster. Pictured l to r: Kent Watts, Gregg Nakano (USAID), Bill Barker, Jon Tung, Dave Taylor, Dewey Perks, Mark Stone and Robb McGibbon (USAID).

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other international partners.

With their base of operation located in heavily affected Banda Aceh, Indonesia, the team spent approximately one month assisting with humanitarian relief efforts, witnessing levels of devastation not seen by even the most experienced and seasoned team members.

"While extremely saddened by the events in the Indian Ocean region, we feel privileged to be able to assist with the relief and recovery efforts," said Fairfax County Fire Chief **Michael Neuhard**.

The six members of Virginia Task Force One are part of a specialized team based in Fairfax County as part of the Fire and Rescue Department. While trained, equipped and ready to respond to U.S. and international disasters through partnerships with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and USAID,

they also serve as a valuable local resource in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

"Our partnership with USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance is a special relationship which allows for local responders to serve the citizens from other countries in their time of need," Neuhard said.

More information about the team can be found on the Web site at www.vatf1.org. ■



The biggest celebration of Fairfax County returns June 10-12



Summer is just around the bend—the magical time of year when outdoor pools are open, public schools are closed and Celebrate Fairfax! explodes on the scene with a weekend-long celebration of food, fun, music and culture! Celebrate Fairfax!,

Northern Virginia's largest community-wide festival returns to the Fairfax County Government Center on Friday, June 10, through Sunday, June 12.

Anyone who has attended Celebrate Fairfax! in years past will be pleasantly surprised this year by the festival's new "look and feel," which includes not only a new logo and "theme" but a more open site and surprises around every corner, including a new performing arts stage featuring local and national performers, a new cultural district, and a new and improved ExxonMobil Children's Village.

The 25-acre site will come alive with fascinating sights and sounds as more than 600 artists, dancers, musicians, exhibitors and food vendors take part in the annual celebration. You'll be amazed at the attractions designed for the entire family including live

concerts, science and technology activities, culinary delights, carnival rides, nightly fireworks and interactive exhibits about the community and the people who call it home.

Celebrate Fairfax! traces its history back to colonial times, when the House of Burgesses mandated that an annual fair be held to promote commerce, economic development and a sense of community. Over the past 200+ years, as Fairfax County has developed into a national hub for commerce and technological innovation, the colonial fair has grown into Celebrate Fairfax!, which allows attendees to celebrate Fairfax County as a great place to live, work and play.

Tickets for Celebrate Fairfax! go on sale May 16 at all Northern Virginia Silver Diner locations, county Multiplex Cinema locations and online at www.celebratefairfax.org. Special discounted packages that include free parking are available online. For more information about the festival and programs visit the Web site at www.celebratefairfax.org or call 703-324-3247, TTY 711.

Celebrate Fairfax! Three days of food, fun, music, and culture – and it's so close to home! ■

The annual drive for Celebrate Fairfax! volunteers begins with You.

Join the JetBlue Volunteer Crew at Celebrate Fairfax!

Celebrate Fairfax! is looking for more than 1,100 volunteers to support the annual festival the weekend of June 10 – 12 on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center. Members of the JetBlue Volunteer Crew will assist with live performances, provide exhibitor relations, answer questions from patrons, support activities in the ExxonMobil Children's Village and SciTech Center, or take tickets and monitor admission gates.

"Support from the community is essential to our success," said **Stephen King**, president & CEO of Celebrate Fairfax! "We appreciate so much the selfless efforts of our volunteers who help provide the community this remarkable festival. This year marks a special transition in the program with support from JetBlue Airways."

JetBlue Volunteer Crew members receive free admission to the festival, a volunteer t-shirt and snacks, courtesy of Coca-Cola and Sodexo. Crew members completing shifts will be entered to win door prizes, including air travel on JetBlue Airways.

Celebrate Fairfax! offers convenient online recruiting where volunteers can search by position or shift time for a particular job and then sign up for their desired shift. To volunteer, go to www.celebratefairfax.org and click on "Volunteer." You may also contact **Tracey Dow** at 703-324-3247, TTY 711, or tracey@celebratefairfax.org.

For general information about Celebrate Fairfax!, visit www.celebratefairfax.org or call 703-324-3247, TTY 711. ■

Focus on benefits

Know your vision benefits

Preventive eye care is important because eye conditions and diseases that can destroy you or your family's healthy vision can strike at any time in life, from newborn to old age. The American Academy of Ophthalmologists suggests the following intervals for regular eye examinations:

- ♦ Ages 0 to 2: screening during regular pediatric appointments
- ♦ Ages 3 to 5: screening every one to two years during regular primary care appointments
- ♦ Ages 6 to 19: schedule examinations as needed
- ♦ Ages 20 to 29: one examination
- ♦ Ages 30 to 39: two examinations
- ♦ Ages 40 to 65: examination every two to four years
- ♦ Ages 65 and over: examination every one to two years

Check with your physician or ophthalmologist to see how often you should have a complete eye exam if any of the following risk factors affect you:

- ♦ History of eye injury
- ♦ Diabetes
- ♦ Family history of eye problems
- ♦ African American over age 40

The charts below show how your vision benefits are covered under each of the county's medical plans. ■



<http://infoweb/hr/benefits>

FairChoice+Blue Choice POS Plan and Blue Preferred PPO Plan	Kaiser Permanente	CIGNA
<p>Routine Eye Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Covered once per calendar year. ♦ \$10 copayment when obtained through participating Davis Vision provider. ♦ No referral required. <p>Frames/lenses/contact lenses.*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ \$40 copayment for frames up to \$70 retail. ♦ \$35 copayment for single vision lenses. ♦ 10% - 20% discount for contact lenses. <p>Routine vision benefits are administered through Davis Vision. Go to www.carefirst.com, select "Find a Doctor," select "Vision," then select "Davis (Blue Vision and Blue Vision Plus)" for a list of participating Davis Vision providers or call Davis Vision at 1-800-783-5602.</p> <p>Discounts for laser vision correction are available; see Davis Vision Web site for details.</p> <p>Note: Benefits for routine eye exams are covered only under Davis Vision. Routine eye exams provided by non-Davis Vision providers are not covered.</p> <p>*See pages 23-24 and 51-52 of the FairChoice+Blue Choice and Blue Preferred PPO Benefit Plan Handbook for additional discounts and more information. This booklet can be found on the Infoweb under Benefits/Health Insurance/FairChoice + Blue Choice.</p>	<p>Routine Eye Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Covered once per calendar year. ♦ \$10 copayment when obtained at Kaiser Permanente facilities. ♦ No referral required. <p>Frames/lenses/contact lenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Covered once per calendar year. ♦ 25% discount on regular eyeglass lenses and frames when obtained at Kaiser Permanente facilities. ♦ 15% discount for contact lenses. <p>Routine vision benefits are available at most medical facilities. Call the appointment line (703-359-7878) to schedule.</p> <p>Lasik Surgery available at a discount. Call the Vision Services Department at 301-421-5704 or 1-866-895-0890 for more information.</p> <p>Note: For all plans, medical conditions or diseases of the eye are considered under your medical benefits (not under the routine vision benefits described above). If you are enrolled in the FairChoice+BlueChoice, Kaiser Permanente and CIGNA plans, and require non-routine vision services, you will need to obtain a referral from your primary care provider to a participating ophthalmologist for services to be covered in-network. ■</p>	<p>Routine Eye Exams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Covered once every 24 months. ♦ \$10 office visit copayment when obtained through CIGNA/Allied Eyecore participating provider. ♦ No referral required. <p>Frames/lenses/contact lenses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Covered once every 24 months. ♦ Partial reimbursement toward purchase of eyeglasses or contact lenses every 24 months. Maximum reimbursement levels are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Single lens: \$20 - Bifocal lenses: \$30 - Trifocal lenses: \$40 - Frames: \$30 - Contact lenses: \$75 <p>For a list of participating providers, go to www.alliedeyecare.com, select "Provider Network," select "Listing of Network & Locations" then select "CIGNA Healthcare Mid-Atlantic HMO Routine Vision" under Directory or call 1-866-425-2323 or 410-418-4414.</p>

Bring Our Children to Work Day



The police helicopter is always an attraction.

The fifth annual Bring Our Children to Work Day will be Thursday, April, 28, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. This popular event is a great way to show our children some of the things that happen in county government and, more specifically, what important work their parents do for the county.

Agencies will present demonstrations, (helicopter landing, police dog workouts), have interactive exhibits on the first floor and show static displays in the parking

lot. If you have questions about your booth space, contact **Sharen Downer** at 703-324-2083, TTY 711. Agencies at other county facilities are encouraged to plan activities to take place at their sites on April 28 for Bring Our Children to Work Day.

The deadline for registering your children, ages 9 to 15, is Friday, April 22. Complete the registration form found on the Infoweb at <http://infoweb/CEX>. For questions about the event, contact **Cathy Maynard** in the Office of the County Executive at 703-324-3239, TTY 711. ■

Public hearing scheduled on personnel regulations changes

Proposed changes to personnel regulations are summarized below.

Holiday Policy – If approved by the Board of Supervisors as part of the FY 2006 budget, the holiday policy would be changed to provide hour for hour holiday compensation for employees who are required to work on a county observed holiday. Currently, this compensation is limited to no more than eight hours regardless of the employee's shift schedule. Under this proposal, an employee who is required to work a 10-hour shift and who actually works on the observed holiday would receive 10 hours of holiday compensation rather than eight hours. This change will not apply to employees who, at their option, are working compressed or alternative work schedules.

Extensions of Injury Leave – This revision will provide authority to the department head or his or her designee to approve extensions of injury leave beyond 12 calendar months. Currently the regulations provide that such extensions require the approval of the Human Resources Director.

Advance Sick Leave – This revision extends eligibility for advance sick leave when an employee must take leave for the serious illness of a parent or parent-in-law. Current

provisions include only spouse and child.

Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) Overtime Eligibility – In response to legislation adopted by the General Assembly (effective July 2005), the county executive is proposing as part of the FY 2006 budget that hours on paid leave be included when determining an employee's eligibility for FLSA overtime. Proposed revisions to Chapters 2 and 4 will implement this recommendation, assuming Board of Supervisors' approval.

Veteran status consideration in hiring – In response to legislation adopted by the General Assembly, the county will now consider an applicant's status as a veteran in hiring policies and practices. Additional consideration will be given to veterans who have a service connected disability rating.

Employees wishing to speak at the public hearing can call the Civil Service Commission at 703-324-2930, TTY 711. Questions on the proposed revisions may be directed to the Employee Relations Division, Department of Human Resources, 703-324-3495, TTY 222-7314.

For further information on the proposed revisions, visit the Department of Human Resources Web page on the Infoweb at <http://infoweb/HR>. ■

A public hearing has been scheduled for May 24, on proposed changes to Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 10 of the Personnel Regulations. The hearing will be held at 7 p.m. in conference rooms 2/3 in the Government Center.

Briefs

Connect with the County Exec

You can still see the recent broadcast of "Connect with the County Exec" on FCTN where you can learn about the FY06 Proposed Budget Plan and its impact on the county and you as a county employee. "Connect with the County Exec" can be seen on FCTN Mondays at 11 a.m., Tuesdays at 8 a.m., Wednesdays at 1 p.m., Thursdays at 8 a.m. and Fridays at 2 p.m.

Courier Photo Contest

Today, April 15, is the deadline for the Courier Photo Contest. Get your photos to the Office of Public Affairs (Suite 551) in the Government Center before the close of business. If questions, contact **Paula Harper** in OPA at 703-324-3199, TTY 711.

Kings Dominion discounts for employees

Fairfax County employees visiting Paramount's Kings Dominion during April and May can purchase discount tickets. To find out how, go to the Human Resources Infoweb page and click on "Get your Kings Dominion discount tickets" under Hot Topics. For more information, contact **Johnson Turner** in Human Resources at 703-324-3320, TTY 703-222-7314.

The next First Friday

The next First Friday meeting with County Executive **Tony Griffin** and members of his leadership team, will be held May 6, from 8:30 to 10 a.m., at the Newington Maintenance Facility, 6900 Newington Road in Lorton. All county employees are welcome to attend. If you can't attend, you can submit a question by using the online form on the county executive's Infoweb page. For further information, contact **Marga-**

Briefs

ret Showalter in the Office of Public Affairs at 703-324-3187, TTY 703-324-2935.

Meals on Wheels volunteers needed

The Meals on Wheels program is in immediate need of volunteers to deliver meals to clients in Annandale, Fairfax and Tysons Towers. Pick up meals at specified sites between 10:30 a.m. and noon to deliver to the clients, usually by 1 p.m. Daily commitments are flexible. If you would like more information, please call the Volunteer Intake Line at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, or contact **Christie Elliott** in DFS, 703-324-5492, TTY 711.

Credit Union election results

Members of the Fairfax County Federal Credit Union have elected **Martha Collier** and **Jim Sandifer**, both Fairfax County retirees, to the Board of Directors.

Teleworking contest

Are you teleworking now? Send us a photo of yourself at work in your telework site and you could win an award! Make sure that your name, title, department and supervisor are listed with the photo. No photos

Briefs

will be returned. All photos should be at least 5x7 and no larger than 9x12 in either pdf, jpeg, gif or hard copy formats. Deadline is Friday, April 18. The best photo will receive an award at a special telework event which will be held in May. For more information, contact **Walter Daniel**, DOT, 703-324-1168, TTY 711.

Co-Ed Softball League organizational meeting

There is an organizational meeting of the Co-Ed Softball League on Tuesday, April 19, from 1 to 2 p.m. in Conference Room 7, Government Center. All teams wishing to participate MUST be represented at this meeting. New rules and regulations will be voted on and discussed. For more information, call **Edward Cook**, DIT, 703-324-2773, TTY 711.

Open house

The Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard in Chantilly, is holding an open house on Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Bring the family and enjoy activities, snacks and exhibits. Shuttle bus service is available from Westfield High School. For more information, contact the station at 703-814-7000, TTY 711. ■

Haywood received public service award

Fairfax County Deputy County Executive **Verdia Haywood** recently received the first *Katherine K. Hanley Public Service Award* from Leadership Fairfax, Inc. The award recognizes a person for his or her sustained contributions to the quality of life of the community. The award was presented March 29 at a LFI break-fast. ■



Kate Hanley, former chairman of the Board of Supervisors, presents **Verdia Haywood** with the public service award.

Cleaning and Caring for Flat Panel or LCD Monitors

The Desktop Techs have left and there sitting on your desk is one of Fairfax County's replacement PCs. As you reorganize your work area, you notice the monitor has some fingerprints, dust and smudges. As you prepare to take steps to add clarity to your new screen display, you notice that it is not solid like the old bulky glass monitors. That is because the replacement display is a Flat Panel, also known as Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) monitor. Note: most laptop computers use LCD monitors also. Unlike glass screens, LCD screens are soft and pliable requiring extra tender loving care. The first point of emphasis is to keep your fingers (static electricity) and sharp objects away from these screens because LCDs are extensively susceptible to damage and scratches. Also, do not use adhesive (Post-It)

notes on the screen surface.

The initial step of tender loving care is to start off by using a soft dry cotton cloth to gently remove the fingerprints, dust and/or smudges. The best cleaning method is to stroke the cloth horizontally across the display in one direction, moving from the top of the display to the bottom, not in a circular motion and do not scrub hard. If this does not completely remove the dirt and splotches, use a small amount of isopropyl alcohol on a cleaning cloth that has been dampened with water. (A small amount of vinegar can be substituted for the isopropyl alcohol.) Note, spray or apply the liquid on the cloth and **never directly** onto the LCD. Use the same cleaning technique as earlier. Do not use paper towels because they can scratch the screen and never use

Tech Tip #92

Department of Information Technology
Technical Infrastructure Division
Technical Support Center
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Tel: 703-222-3535, Option 1
Fax: 703-222-3396
TTY 711

ammonia, ammonia-based cleaners, or strong cleaners such as acetone, ethyl alcohol, toluene, ethyl acid or methyl chloride which can cause the surface to yellow and become brittle.

It is good to have a special clean cloth that is dedicated for use on the LCD screen. Do not pick up any old rag, as dirt particles in the rag can scratch the surface of the screen. Special LCD cleaning cloths are available through the county's office supply resource and can be an excellent investment. ■

Celebrating



Earth Day

Volunteers from across Fairfax County will plant native trees and shrubs for the Earth Day Celebration at Lake Fairfax Park on April 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The project will improve water quality, protect streams and stream banks, and improve wildlife habitat.

More than 100 volunteers are expected to plant 450 container plants and 100 herbaceous plants on approximately 42,000 square feet of the park.

Feel left out? Don't be, because volunteers are still needed. This is a unique opportunity to work alongside the leading experts in riparian restoration and participate in envi-

ronmental stewardship. To volunteer, please contact the Stormwater Planning Division, 703-324-5500, TTY 711,

swpdmall@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/riparianbuffer/.

Fairfax County initiated the riparian buffer restoration project in March 2005 to restore the land next to streams and rivers by planting native vegetation in these areas. The county is conducting this project in collaboration with volunteers and various partners to mitigate stormwater runoff into local streams and to support the Board of Supervi-

sors' adopted environmental agenda. Seven sites have already been designated by the county as part of the riparian buffer restoration project with the goal of restoring 40 sites by the summer of 2006. ■

Courier

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